

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

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Volume 34 No. 1 • Published Bimonthly

FEBRUARY 2003

WISCONSIN UTILITY MAKES AWARD
TO ARES/RACES GROUPS

We Energies, a Wisconsin gas and electric utility, has given ARES/RACES organizations <<http://wi-aresraces.org>> in 17 Wisconsin counties a total of \$39,000 to enhance their emergency communication capabilities. A ceremonial check presentation was held January 21.

"We are excited about this timely award, which will bring needed equipment to several of our counties," said Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Dr Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, who also serves as RACES Chief Radio Officer in the Badger State. "We thank We Energies for their forethought and generosity."

Kaplan said the grant would help to build an effective statewide packet network for use during emergencies. He also said he hopes the idea will "snowball" and inspire other companies to follow suit.

Last November, PA Consulting Group--the energy industry's largest management consulting firm--honored We Energies by presenting the Reliability One Award for superior electric system reliability in the Midwest during 2001.

"In planning how we wanted to cele-

brate this award, including what we could give to our employees as recognition, we decided that we could put these dollars to better use," said Charles Cole, We senior vice president of distribution operations. "We are proud that we were able to take this award, take it one step further, and share it with a worthwhile organization such as ARES."

EC Resources, a 501(c)3 group established 10 years to fund Outagamie County ARES, will accept the donation from We, solicit written requests from each county's EC for equipment and disburse the funds to buy the needed gear.

Counties picked to receive funds were those with at least 5000 We customers, and funds were apportioned according to the number of customers it serves in county. The top grant of \$9000 went to Milwaukee County, while Waukesha County got \$6000 and Racine County \$3000. ARES/RACES organizations in 14 other Wisconsin counties plus one We-served county in Michigan got \$1500 each.

-- from ARRL Bulletin

Wisconsin ARES/RACES Needs You!

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
Section Emergency Coordinator (ARRL)
Wisconsin Chief Radio Officer (RACES)
Deputy Director, Emergency Management
(Ozaukee County)

Do you think Public Service is an important activity for hams? Do you want to do some Public Service while engaging in your hobby? Do you want to have the added benefit of learning all sorts of new information related to communications? Well then, look no further. Join your local ARES/RACES unit and you will have it all.

If that sounds like a recruiting message, it should, because it is. It is accurate, but not the whole story. Let me tell you the "rest of the story".

How is ARES organized in Wisconsin? Each county in our state (72 total) potentially has an ARES unit,

headed by an Emergency Coordinator (EC). The EC's job is to organize and train the unit, and to keep it ready and able to respond to communications emergencies. For example, under Wes Jones (N9PHS) able leadership, 65 hams participated in providing emergency communications after a tornado in northwestern Wisconsin. You can see the counties with ECs and ARES/RACES units by looking at the map on our website: <http://wi-aresraces.org>. A very few counties have no ARES unit at present because no EC has been appointed

Why the ARES/RACES moniker? Every member of an ARES unit in Wisconsin is also registered as a RACES operator. Every RACES registered operator in the state is also a

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WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

1800Z March 9 until 0100Z March 10
Sponsored by WARAC.

www.warac.org

Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsas.org](http://www.bsas.org)



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

March 9, 2003, Wisconsin
Wisconsin QSO Party. Sponsored by
West Allis Radio Amateur Club. Info:
www.warac.org.

March 16, 2003, Jefferson, WI
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Ham-
fest 2003, Sunday March 16, 2003, at Jeffer-
son County Fairgrounds Activity Center,
Hwy 18 West, Jefferson, WI, from 8 AM to 1
PM. Vendors admitted at 7 AM, general ad-
mission and sales begin at 8 AM. VE testing
starting at 9 AM. Talk-in on 145.49 Repeater.
Contact TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Ft. At-
kinson, WI 53538, or jsatt@ticon.net Event
website is www.cmdline.com/tcarc/.

March 23, 2003, Grayslake, IL
NS9RC Fest. (formerly known as LA-

MARSfest) Lake County Fairgrounds,
Grayslake, IL Contact website
www.ns9rc.org.

April 4 and 5, 2003 AES Superfest.
Amateur Electronic Supply, Milwaukee, WI.
Web site: www.aesham.com

April 13, 2003, Stoughton, WI
Madison Area Repeater Assn. (MARA)
Swapfest. Mandt Community Center, 400
Mandt Parkway, Stoughton WI. Doors open
at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY, P.
O. Box 8890, Madison WI 53708-8890. Info
line: 608-245-8890 or Email
w9hsy@hotmail.com. Website [www.qsl.net/
mara/swap03/swap03.html](http://www.qsl.net/mara/swap03/swap03.html).

May 3, 2003, Cedarburg, WI
25th Annual Amateur Radio and Com-
puter Swapfest. Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC).
Info: www.qsl.net/orc/swap.html.

July 12, 2003, Oak Creek, WI
South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest '03.
American Legion Post 434, 9327 South

Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. For More Info
e-mail: ryatex@aol.com or call 1-414-762-
3235 and ask for Verne. Website
www.qsl.net/wa9txe.

August 9, 2003, Baraboo, WI
Seventh Annual Circus City Swapfest,
Saturday, August 9, 2003, 7:00 am till
Noon. Sauk Co. Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI.
Vendors, tailgate area, free parking, camping,
VE testing. For info, contact: Steve, N9UDO,
608-356-2313 or n9udo@yahoo.com. Web-
site www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm.

September 6, 2003, Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Hamfest, Saturday Septem-
ber 6, 2003, Eau Claire County Exposition
Center. Same location as last six years. Doors
Open 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Vendors: ARRL,
Tower Electronics, Burghardt Amateur Cen-
ter, QSL USA and many more! Door and
Raffle Prizes. Admission \$5.00, Tables \$
10.00. Tailgating - FREE with paid admis-
sion. FREE COFFEE - The Coffee is always
Free at the Eau Claire Hamfest. If you can't
find what you want at the Eau Claire Ham-
fest, you probably didn't need it. Information:

Jim Staatz KG9RA KG9RA@charter.net.
Phone 715-838-9108. Web Page:
www.ecarc.org.

September 2003, Peoria, IL
Peoria Superfest 2003. Exposition Gar-
dens Fairgrounds, 1601 W Northmoor Rd.,
off 6300 N. University, Peoria, IL. Contact:
Peoria Superfest, PO Box 3508, Peoria, IL
61612-3508. InfoLine: (309) 692-3378. E-
mail: w9uvi@arrl.net Website:
www.w9uvi.org.

September 27-28, 2003, Grayslake, IL
Radio Expo 2003. September 2003,
Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts 45 & 120,
Grayslake, IL. Grounds Open from Thursday
at noon. Flea Market open both days at 6
AM. Exhibit Buildings open Sat 8 AM to 4
PM, Sun 8 AM to 3 PM. The Chicago FM
Club. Questions ??? Call Radio Expo 630-
628-1501 (Voice-Mail & FAX). [http://
www.chicagofmclub.org](http://www.chicagofmclub.org).



Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN;
Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly)\$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club
package reduced rates are available. For infor-
mation, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of

the month before the issue date. For example,
the closing date for the May issue is April 1.
The only exception is for participating clubs'
minutes. Participating clubs are requested to
send their material no later than FIVE DAYS
after the club's meeting. For example, if a club
meets on the 4th of the month, the material
should be sent no later than the 9th of that
month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and
exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.
Editorial material, photographs, and fea-
ture articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter,
K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to
n9qa@arrl.net (Dave Knaus, N9QA).

Inquiries about advertising should be
directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point informa-
tion should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

**Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken
Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks
before the events date.**

Subscriptions should be sent, with check
or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Post- ing Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles
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publication in which the article first appeared,
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This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio
amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is
mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a
Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organiza-
tion.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest edi-
torials, columns, articles, and letters from read-
ers are the opinions of the authors only, and do
not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply
endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or
by any other individual or organization.

Due to space limitations, we cannot
carry the full listing of club meetings in The
Wisconsin area. Please see the December
2002 issue of BSSS for the latest printed
listing. An up-to-date listing is also available
on our web site. The following additions or
changes have been reported to BSSS since
the last full listing:

Madison, WI
Madison DX Club, meetings are on
every fourth Tuesday of each month; see
<http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison, WI
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.,
Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Ave-
nue, Room C, downstairs. First building west
of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Marinette, WI Menominee, MI Ama-
teur Radio Club Club Meetings held second
Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth
Avenue Menominee Michigan in the base-
ment. Guests welcome e-mail secretary
kg9ad@arrl.net

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

March 01, 2003	Racine, WI
March 01, 2003	St. Paul, MN
March 01, 2003	Madison, WI
March 08, 2003	Blaine, MN
March 08, 2003	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 13, 2003	Apple Valley, MN
March 15, 2003	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 15, 2003	Loves Park, IL
March 15, 2003	Cottage Grove, MN
March 18, 2003	Sheboygan, WI
March 18, 2003	Eden Prairie, MN
March 22, 2003	Bloomington, MN
March 29, 2003	Menomonie, WI
March 29, 2003	Tomahawk, WI
April 05, 2003	Madison, WI
April 05, 2003	Racine, WI
April 05, 2003	St. Paul, MN
April 10, 2003	Apple Valley, MN
April 12, 2003	Blaine, MN
April 12, 2003	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 15, 2003	Eden Prairie, MN
April 16, 2003	Bloomington, MN
April 19, 2003	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 19, 2003	Loves Park, IL
April 19, 2003	Cottage Grove, MN
April 26, 2003	Milwaukee, WI
(MRAC)	
April 26, 2003	Tomahawk, WI
May 03, 2003	Madison, WI
May 03, 2003	Racine, WI
May 03, 2003	St. Paul, MN
May 08, 2003	Apple Valley, MN
May 10, 2003	Sheboygan, WI
May 10, 2003	Blaine, MN
May 10, 2003	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 17, 2003	Loves Park, IL
May 17, 2003	Cottage Grove, MN
May 20, 2003	Eden Prairie, MN
May 24, 2003	Bloomington, MN
May 31, 2003	Milwaukee, WI
(MRAC)	
May 31, 2003	Tomahawk, WI
June 07, 2003	Madison, WI
June 07, 2003	St. Paul, MN
June 12, 2003	Apple Valley, MN
June 14, 2003	Blaine, MN
June 14, 2003	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 17, 2003	Eden Prairie, MN
June 21, 2003	Loves Park, IL
June 21, 2003	Cottage Grove, MN
June 28, 2003	Bloomington, MN
June 28, 2003	Tomahawk, WI
July 15, 2003	Sheboygan, WI
September 13, 2003	Sheboygan, WI
November 01, 2003	Menomonie, WI
November 18, 2003	Sheboygan, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except Jan., Jul., & Aug.)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
(September through April)	
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN

Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfests entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
or
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2003 test fee at \$12.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Adams, WI
Adams County Library, 101 S. Main St., Adams, WI. Enter from the Center St. entrance. Walk-ins are welcome. For information

contact: Ed Wagner at Email: aab9fn@arrl.net or call 608-584-4858. All ARRL rules, regulations and conditions apply to testing.

Appleton, WI
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: w9mdp@arrl.net.

Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Eau Claire Hamfest. Held at Eau Claire Exposition Center, Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire. Walkins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, ka9omy@arrl.net. Telephone: 715-839-6509. www.ecarc.org. w9eau@ecarc.org.

Fond du Lac, WI
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, schultz74@charter.net.

Fort Atkinson, WI
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m. Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920-563-6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920-563-6381.

Hudson, WI
St. Croix Valley AR Testing Col. St. Croix County Emergency, Government Center by jail, Carmichal Rd. lower level, Hudson, WI 54016. Call for time and walk-in info, Contact: Gregory Miller (715)386-9857.

Jefferson, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Tests at 9 a.m. American Legion Post 164, located at 321 N. Main St., Jefferson, WI. Parking in back at the True Value Hardware. Enter Main Street off hwy 18 at the Stop Light and turn North. Or from I-94 take hwy 26 into Jefferson and look for the Flag in front and a few blocks before Hwy 18. Bring picture ID and copies and originals of licenses and CSCE's. If you enter from the rear you can go upstairs to the test if the Bar is open. Test fee \$10 to ARRL/VEC. Please note that the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club March 17 Hamfest will be located at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Talkin on 145.49 Repeater. Information: www.cmdline.com/tcarc/.

Madison, WI
First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison. Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCes, and a check for \$10.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, at 608-239-3696 (home phone) or sent to wo9u@arrl.net.

Medford, WI(ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Taylor County Area

Amateur Radio Club (ARRL/VEC affiliated). Tuesday, November 26th. Testing for all classes, Technician through Extra. Registration starts at 7:30 PM, testing starts at 8:00 PM. Location: the conference room of the Medford Public Library, 400 N. Main St., Medford, WI. From the intersection of State Hwys. 13 and 64, proceed west on Hwy. 64 to Main St. Turn north on Main St. and take Main St. to the library. Talk-in on the 147.15(+600 kHz, 114.8 Hz PL) repeater. Walk-ins welcome, however, if you know you'll be attending, it would be appreciated if you call ahead. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451, phone (715) 748-4054 or e-mail to Mike, N9GHZ, at mds54449@yahoo.com.

Menominee, MI
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at jrymer@ez-net.com or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at dxer@cybrzn.com. We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

Menomonie, WI
ARRL/VEC. Location: NEWUW-Stout Communications, Millennium Hall, Broadway & 10th Ave., Menomonie, WI. Contact: James P. Ley, 715-235-3998.

Milwaukee, WI
Badger Examiners (W5YI VEC) September thru April, every third Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, Milwaukee (use the entrance numbered 5730). Exams are given at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$10.00, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC VEC) Last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test at the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797-MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$8.00 for the exam fee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Contact: John G. Kraak, 262-797-6722.

(Continued on page 5)

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. `Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1200	0600	W9RCW
BEN	YES	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	YES	3985	2330	1730	K9FHI
WNN	YES	3723	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/W	YES	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	NO	01/61	0130	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CST— Menomonie Area)					
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					

STM Report Wisconsin Section January 2003

FAQ #3 – Where can I find out more about good traffic handling?

Ask around. Listen carefully to the regulars on voice and CW nets. Ask lots of questions. Re-read the famous pink card, Operating Aid FSD-218, or check out some of the fine sources on the Interne such as those linked from <http://www.arrl.org>.

W7ZIW has an excellent treatise on message parts and procedures at <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/msgmethods.html>.

VE7CTW has some great traffic handling guides for both CW and voice at <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/cwguide.html> and <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/voguide.html>.

Angela, VE7ANG, has an excellent essay on “nettiquette” available at <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/netq.html>.

One of my favorite sources is ARRL’s Public Ser-

vice Communications Manual, which can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/v>. Here, one can find the big picture, the functions of various levels of the National Traffic System, how it works with ARES/RACES to provide service, and how operators can best support it.

What else might help? Check out NN7H’s list from 1998 on preparedness where he mentions elements such as condition of equipment, knowledge of a communications assignment, materials/aids available, knowledge of frequency conditions, proper message routing, and proper message format.

Finally, if your club or ARES unit would like a no-cost program on traffic handling, let your Section Traffic Manager know. Have overhead; will travel. I’d be pleased to appear at your meeting and discuss the NTS, traffic handling, and questions on Wisconsin nets. I’ve had lots of fun talking traffic at places such as Port Washington, Baraboo, Stevens Point, Sheboygan, Grafton, Madison, Juneau and other points about the state. Give me a call, email me, or – better yet – send me a radiogram, and I’ll check my calendar.
73 - K9LGU/STM-WI

the other hand, it would be more satisfying to handle traffic which has more significance and which is not addressed to a Silent Key.

Second, one needs to have a course of action. Your possible responses are – (1) apologize for the error to the person accepting the message and file it, (2) apologize and then advise the originating station to help avoid future problems, (3) swear off traffic handling, or (4) start filling the NTS with meaningful traffic – accurately addressed and properly formatted. Of course, I advocate a combination of #2 and #4 as the solution to the problem. Our task is to preserve and enhance the NTS, keeping it in readiness for the support it can offer. If we put plenty of “good” messages into the system, the need for the generic will fade like 80 meters under the aurora. Next question?

If you haven’t discovered it, check out this link especially for CW (but also for all other) traffic handlers -- <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/pdf/MPG304A.pdf>
73, K9LGU/STM-WI

2002 SECTION NET TOTALS

2002	QNI	QTC	QNI%	QTC %
BWN	15351	18465	0.3889	85%
BEN	5980	638	0.1515	3%
WSBN	7364	795	0.1866	4%
WNN	2439	144	0.0618	1%
WSSN	2418	206	0.0613	1%
WIN-E	2645	844	0.067	4%
WIN-L	2729	656	0.0691	3%
WRACES 547	6	0.0139	0.0003	
TOTALS	39473	21754		

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

December 2002					
NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1347	1593	2725	31	W9RCW
BEN	507	83	921	31	KE9VU
WSBN	676	77	975	31	K9FHI
WNN	241	19	376	29	KB9ROB
WSSN	221	18	332	29	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	236	90	315	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	247	50	373	31	W9UW
WRACES 124	1	211	5	N6NKO	
Totals	3599	1931	6228	217	

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

January 2003					
NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1305	1670	2325	31	W9RCW
BEN	535	49	952	31	KE9VU
WSBN	772	64	1086	31	K9FHI
WNN	255	29	355	28	KB9ROB
WSSN	260	18	355	31	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	252	58	286	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	290	51	419	31	W9UW
WRACES 126	0	175	4	N6NKO	
Totals	3543	1881	5667	187	

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY

January 2003					
STATION ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	
K9JPS	1	453	33	443	930 – BPL
W9RCW 0	420	12	389	821 – BPL	
K9GU	0	189	31	191	411 – BPL*
N9TVT	0	134	202	0	336
W9CBE	0	163	152	3	318
N9VE	0	148	21	142	311 – BPL*
K9LGU	3	83	50	4	140
WA9ZTY 0	46	35	0	81	
W9BHL	0	25	54	0	79
K9FHI	0	26	37	1	64
AG9G	0	7	56	0	63
KE9VU	0	18	33	0	51
W9UW	0	32	17	1	50
KG9B	0	19	20	0	39
WA9ZTY-DEC	0	30	4	2	36
KB9ROB 0	30	2	3	35	
AA9BB	0	0	28	0	28
WB9ICH 0	19	3	0	22	
K9UTQ	0	7	6	7	20
WD9FLJ 2	2	2	2	8	
W9PVD	0	4	3	0	7
W9RSX	0	1	4	1	6

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY

January 2003					
STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
K9JPS	1	453	33	443	930 – BPL
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W9CBE	0	163	152	3	318
N9VE	0	148	21	142	311 – BPL*

(Continued on page 7)

The Computer

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
Skaplan@mcw.edu



THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 107. TweakUI

- by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
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Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@mcw.edu

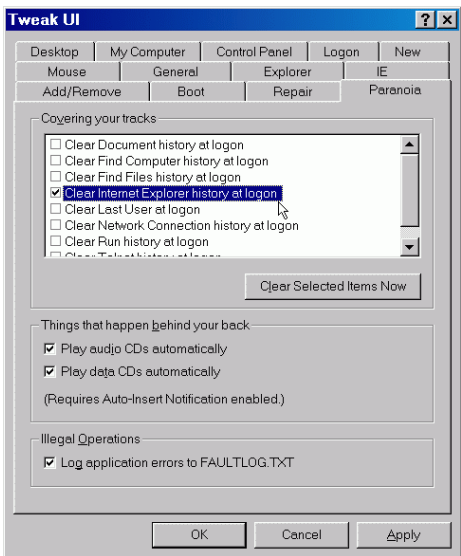
TweakUI is a free Microsoft Power Tool that has been around since at least 1998. It was written by Microsoft programmers and made available publicly, but it is a non-supported utility. That is, if a user has problems getting it to work, they will not help you with it. Nonetheless, it has been classed as a “must have” utility by a number of publications, including PC Magazine. Now, a new release (V1.33) is available that works with nearly every version of Windows (95, 98, 98SE, ME, XP and 2000). I recommend it. It is a Good Thing.

PREPARATION: Make a new folder called TweakUI on the drive of your choice, and remember where you put it.

GET THE PROGRAM: Go to www.microsoft.com, and in the upper left corner type TweakUI in the search box. When you find it, download the small program (only 111 kb) to your new TweakUI folder. It is compressed, with several components inside. Double-click the Tweakui.exe program to release the components. Windows will ask you if you want to unzip the file to C:\Windows\Temp (highlighted in blue). Don't let it do that. Instead, type D:\TweakUI (where D: is the your drive containing the TweakUI folder you recently created) so that the components are placed there.

INSTALL: This couldn't be easier. In the TweakUI folder, find Tweakui.inf. **Right** click it, then select Install from the menu that comes up. You are now

done.



RUN: In the Control Panel, you will find a new TweakUI icon. Click it to run. As you see here, there are 13 tabs covering a number of items in Windows 98 SE (there may be more or fewer in other versions of Windows). I have opened just one here, Paranoia. With it, you can clear all sorts of histories at logon. The other tabs allow you to repair icons, alter boot parameters, remove a stubborn, long-gone program's name from the Add/Remove menu, change mouse and cursor characteristics, remove items from the My Computer menu, and many, many other functions. Just page through the tabs on your machine, and try one function that looks like it would be useful. Run with the modification for a day or two to see if you like it. If not, open TweakUI again and change it back. No harm done! Don't forget, the icon resides in the Control Panel folder (though you can make a desktop shortcut, if you desire).

Short for **Tweak User Interface**, the little program does just that – allows you to modify many items that otherwise would be inaccessible to the user. Not bad, at all! A great Power User tool. Happy computing!

(Continued from page 3)

THE TEST POINT

Onalaska, WI
Riverland ARC (ARRL/VEC). Onalaska Community Center, 515 Quincy St., Onalaska. Contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723, readers@centurytel.net.

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Racine, WI
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (262) 886-8551. w0wln@juno.com.
VE testing dates in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, for 2003 will be according to the following schedule:

Sheboygan, WI
Saturdays 8:30 AM, 10, 13 September
Tuesdays 6:30 PM, 18 March, 15 July.
18 November
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated.
Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ 920-876-2370

N 8 0 2 9 Willow Road
k9xj@arrl.net
Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Shell Lake, WI
NORWESCO ARES/RACES (ARRL/VEC). Washburn County Law Enforcement Center, lower level meeting room, 421 Hwy 63, Shell Lake. Walk-ins allowed. This is for all classes of license. Persons wishing to upgrade an existing license should bring a photocopy of it to submit. Also need a photo ID to prove who you are. The fee is \$10.00. Contact: Richard J. Eckenrode, 715-466-4109. Email: cen34109@centurytel.net. Web Site: fp1.centurytel.net/norwesco/.

Tomahawk, WI
Tomahawk ARRL VE Team (ARRL/VEC). Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633, dcollins@newnorth.net.

St. Paul, MN
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave., St Paul, MN. Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108. www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html.

Houghton, MI
George R. Turner, W8FWG, Team Liaison to ARRL for CCRAA/HARC Clubs, E-Mail: gthur@up.net.

Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail: WB9QYV@aol.com.

Dubuque, IA
Dubuque Hamfest Carl Clark, N0KAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

Editors notes:

We were delayed a bit with this month's issue of BSSS. New equipment installations at work combined with cataract eye surgery (no more yellow haze on everything) took away most of my spare time for working on BSSS. Both are now in the past and we hope to get back to our planned schedule.

We can now deliver BSSS via e-mail if you would like to receive your copy that way. We can e-mail you a Adobe pdf copy of BSSS when we send it to the printer. This will get you your copy 1 to 2 weeks

before the snail mail copy. We will still send you the mail copy if you wish. The pdf file will be about 1 meg in size.

If you want e-mail delivery, please send your e-mail address to me at:

kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

We hope that you enjoy this issue and we already have much material ready for the April issue.

Looking forward to working many of you in the Wisconsin QSO Party.

Ken Ebnetter, K9EN

Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsbs.org](http://www.bsbs.org)

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE
Secretary

P.O. Box 294 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61

JANUARY 2003

President Fred (W6BSF) opened the January meeting at 7:33 pm at the club shack. After introductions of all present the Dec. minutes were summarized. With motions made by Denise (N4WGK) and Shawn (KC9AAH) they were accepted. The treasurer's report was given and also accepted by motions by Red (N9GHE) and Bob (KB9INK).

In old business, 48 people attended the annual Christmas party held 1/3/03 at Cedar Ridge Restaurant. After a delicious meal everyone was treated to a power point presentation by Carl (KA9WYK) of the 2002 high lights and low lights of the clubs events. An exchange of gifts and door prizes concluded a wonderful evening. Dick (N9QFY) was given the HAM of the Year award. Congratulations to Dick for all he does.

Pres. Fred has already secured next Jan. 2nd for the annual Christmas party at Cedar Ridge.

Work continues on the planning of a field day for this summer. A letter has been sent to the Parks and Rec. Dept. in securing Silver Creek Park for the event. Clancy also mentioned he has 4 generators to be used. We are hoping for a good show of members to participate.

A new roster will be ready by the February meeting. Fred was contacting a few members on dues yet. Also a calendar of events will be made out too.

Brat fry dates for the summer have been secured. They are as follows: May 30-31st at Sentry, August 16th at Pick and Save in Two Rivers, and Sept. 19th-20th at Piggly Wiggly. Please consider helping as much as you can.

Another event for the summer season is: Kewaunee Mountain Bike Race held on May 17-18th. Contact James (KB9GOX) if you can volunteer on these days.

The Red Cross is offering First Aid and CPR classes thru May. There is a list of dates if you are interested. Also, we need to replace the radio at the Red Cross. Nancy Crowley has been contacted and she ok'd the replacing. An estimate of price has been given. Fred is working on this.

A test of emergency generator power was done and glad to report that the club shack has 100% power supply. So we should be able to operate completely should we need to help out in an emergency.

Bob (KB9INK) won the attendance drawing and gets 7.00. Tom (KB9GRC) won a Yaesu hat.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 Next months meeting to be held at the club shack. February 12th at 7:30. Lunch was served after our

speaker.

We had a guest speaker this evening. Bill Niemuth (KB9ENO), District Emergency Coordinator gave a very informative slide show and commentary about Ares/Races. He spoke of the services each provide. Why members are a vital part of an emergency situation. Also the services they provide to public and private events (bike-a-thons, marathons, etc.). He stressed the importance of training as being the crucial point of a smooth running event. Thank you Bill for coming and sharing with us.

Respectively submitted,
Theresa (KB9KXE), Secretary

Meeting Membership
KB9KXE Theresa N9GHE Red
N4WGK Denise KB9GOY Mary
W9NPX Roger K9HAG Ken
KB9KXF Gene WB9VTM Lyle
N9VIA Oran K9WIX Clancy
KC9AAH Shawn N9XEZ Bill
K9DUX Bill KB9GRC Tom
KZ9SCX Francis KA9SCY Charlene
KB9NTL Don KB9INK Bob
KB9EME Vern N9FVZ Dan
KB9KEM Dick WB9DQD Gene
KB9YRC Travis W6BSF Fred
K9SF Mike (Sheboygan)
N9QFY Dick
KB9ENO Bill-guest Tina-guest
Mark & David-guests

FEBRUARY 2003

The February Mancorad Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Fred at 7:30. The Jan. meeting minues were summarized and accepted by motions from Red (N9GHE) and Gene (KB9KXF). Also the treasurers report was given and accepted by those in attendance. Motions from Bob (KB9INK) and Rahlf (N9AWG).

It looks like we will have Field Day this year. John (NZ9Z) has written to Parks and Rec Dept. requesting the weekend of June 28-29th at Silve Creek Park. There seems to be no problem holding it there. Pres. Fred asked members who are interested in working to fill out a form. On it was space to list hours a person could work, what day to work (Sat or Sun) and any equipment that could be used. Please return to Fred or John by May 1st.

Also coming up is the Cobia Event. April 26-27th. Set up is on Friday. The Maritime Museum will also have their grand opening for the new addition that weekend. So we expect large crowds. A sleepover is possible

(Continued on page 7)

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Jerry Graebel - W9GLG

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI

JANUARY 2003

Program: Odd Split Night. The members got together and helped each other to program the odd split used by the portable or emergency repeater owned by Mark, N9MEA. The repeater is planed to be used for the Badger State Games and the Special Olympics to be held the first and second weekend in February.

Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2003 at Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.

President Mark Rasmussen called meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

Present: WB2TLQ, WD9CPY, N9NMH, KB9DED, N9NRC, N9UAG, KB9YDP, KB9ZOF, W9WW, N9SDL, N9PHD, W9PBB, N3FDE, KC9CIY, N9NRA, WA9NBC, KB9STB, N9TTA, N9MEA, W9GLG, KC9BFW, KC9AEJ, K9YF.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept: KB9STB Second: N9NRA

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 3, 2002 meeting were accepted as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site. home.dwave.net/~wvra

Old Business:

1. The 75 meter net is still trying to meet on Tuesday nights at 9:00 P.M. The net will be on tonight at 3.975 + or - 25. Listen to the 146.640 repeaters if the frequency changes.

2. If anyone has any ideas for a program they would like to see please contact Mike, KB9VBR.

3. The Club is still waiting to hear about the grant for a new trailer. The old trailer was traded in for \$350. The trailer is at the dealer awaiting pickup. If anyone knows of a professional sign painter who may be interested in working on the trailer please Email Matt, N9NMH. N9NMH@ARRL.NET. Also contact him if you would like to work or have any ideas as to how to outfit the trailer.

4. APRS meeting went very well. There was a good exchange of technical information. DIGIs are now up in Chippewa Falls and West Bend. There are plans being made for a state wide APRS meeting in June or July.

5. ARES - Storm Spotter training will be in March. There may be 1 or 2 drills planed before the storm season arrives to help us be better prepared. The date for the training has not been set but Myron; KB9STB will get information out as soon as he has it.

6. Badger State Games will be January 30th, February 1st and 2nd. The Special Olympics will be February 8th and 9th. All events that the Club helps with will be at the Nine Mile Recreation Area. Please arrive about 8:00 to 8:30 A.M. to register and get your armband. Anyone who would like to help can contact Mike, KB9DED.

7. The new, redesigned web page for the Club is now up and running. Thanks to Bill, WB2TLQ for his hard work. He is looking for

pictures of the September Tornado that hit the north end of Wausau.

8. The members present accepted a new Club Logo, submitted by Bill, WB2TLQ and Jerry, W9GLG that can be viewed on the web page.

9. Andy, N9NRA is trying to get enough people together to take a bus or a van down to the Madison Ham Fest in April. Anyone who is interested can contact Andy on the 146.640 repeaters.

New Business:

1. The Board has formed a new committee for Public Education in regards to Amateur Radio. The committee will work on Special Events, Kid's Day, Field Day, Ham Classes and organizing Testing Sessions. Committee members are WB2TLQ, W9GLG, KB9STB, N9SDL, KC9BME, KC9BFW, and K9YF.

2. Mark, N9MEA reviewed the dates for meetings this year. The 4th of July comes very close to Field Day and he asked the members to think about moving the date. The July meeting is traditionally the Club Picnic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M K9SDL Second - KB9STB

The next meeting will be Tuesday February 4, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center Cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the main parking lot at the main entrance on the East side of the building. Call in on 2-meter club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.640 (pl 114.8).

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Graebel - W9GLG
(w9glg@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

FEBRUARY 2003

Program: Mike, KB9VBR found a video-tape tour of what the ARRL Headquarters looked like in 1935. The narrator introduced most of the people working there at the time. The second part of the tape was about the first transatlantic radio communication in 1932. It explained some of the equipment used.

Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2003 at Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.

President Mark Rasmussen called meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

Present: N9MEA, N9NMH, W9GLG, KC9NW, KB9STB, KC9ASL, WB2TLQ, N9PHC, N9LIA, N9TTA, KB9ZOF, W9PBB, WD9CPY, KB9YDP, KB9DED, N9MO, WA9NBC, KB9VBR, K9YF, K9DB, KB9YPS, and 1 guest - Randy.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept: KB9STB Second: KB9YDP

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 3, 2002 meeting were accepted as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

MANCORAD FEB. 2003

again. More to come later.

For all interested there will be a weather spotting class held at the Sherriffs Dept, S. 9th Street entrance. March 25th at 6:30. A person from NOAA Weather will be conducting the class. With spring weather coming up this is a great opportunity for all to hone their weather spotting skills.

We welcome a new member, Gary Kreis (KC9CDW). Glad to have you aboard.

Shawn (KC9AAH) reported on a website he has found relating to terrorism attacks, preparing for such attacks and how Ham radio operators can help in case of such attacks.

It is called Hams for Enduring Freedom. If interested, please contact Shawn.

Travis (KB9YRC) also reported on an address one could receive information on weather spotting and the importance of ham

radio operators getting the current information to NOAA weather. The addresses are: <http://www.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml> or:

NOAA OPCA/Outreach Unit, 1305 East-West Highway, Suite 1W514, Silve Spring, MD 20910. Anyon interested can check these out. Travis also brought along a bunch of brochures from the Red Cross on terrorism. They were there for all to pick up.

Next month John (NZ9Z) should be bringing a very special guest to our meeting. His friend, Victor, from Sri Lanka should be here in the US attending a conference. He hopes to also see John and his son who has been staying with John this past year. We hope to have alot of members in attendance to welcome Victor.

Carl (KA9WYK) reported we have a new website address: www.QSL.net/W9DK. We should have less popups.

Fred brought a video about contesting.

He ran some of it at the meeting. It explained how to get into contesting and some of the many types of contests out there for hams to participate in. There were many hams giving their reasons for contesting and how easy it is to get started.

Dan (N9NCU) won the attendance prize. He received \$5.00. The pot goes to \$5.00.

The meeting was closed at 8:35. Lunch was served. Our next meeting will be on March 12th at 7:30 at the club shack. All are welcome.

Respectively submitted, Theresa (KB9KXE), Secretary

Meeting Attendance

KB9KXE Theresa	KB9YRC Travis
KC9AAH Shawn	N9GHE Red
N9AWG Rahlf	KB9KXF Gene
KA9WYK Carl	NZ9Z John
KB9VLS Chris	KC9CDW Gary
KB9NTL Don	K9DUX Bill
N9QFO Len	N9NCU Dan
KB9INK Bob	N9FVZ Dan
WB9DQD Gene	KB9EME Vern
N9QFY Dick	W6BSF Fred
N9OEF Dave-visitor	
KC9BMV Barbie-visitor	

(Continued from page 6)

WVRA FEB 2003

posted on the WVRA Web Site. home.dwave.net/~wvra

Old Business:

1. ARES - The annual Storm Spotter Training will be held March 11, 2003 at the American Legion Post 10 in Wausau with a start time of 6:30 P.M. This class is mandatory for all ARES members who plan to take part in the Weather Nets this summer. Myron, KB9STBis trying to arrange a tour of the Marathon County E.O.C.
2. APRS - Mike, KB9VBR is working on the notes from the last APRS meeting. The W9SM digi has been tweaked a little and should give a little better coverage. The W9SM Igate will be moving. It will be off the air during the relocation, which will take about a week. There are plans being made for a state wide APRS meeting in April. There may be a node in Coloma soon, but a little help will be needed in programming and setup.
3. Club Records - Some of the club's records will need to be moved on Friday, February 7, 2003 in the afternoon, to a new location on the west side of Wausau. Anyone who can help

- please call on the 146.640 PL 114.8 repeater.
4. Web Page - Bill, WB2TLQ has been working hard to redesign the web page from the ground up. At this time he is only updating the page. He is looking for suggestions and will be making so other changes soon.
 5. Public Education - The Club will be giving a demonstration of Amateur Radio to a group of Tiger Cubs and their parents at the Riverside Elementary School in Ringle on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:00 P.M. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Bill, WB2TLQ at wb2tlq@AmSat.org, or Jon, KC9AEJ at kc9aej@arrl.net. Bill, WB2TLQ made a proposal to have the Club sponsor an award for working All States - Special Events. The members accepted and the Public Education Committee will come up with rules. There was discussion on how the Club could take part in the upcoming Wisconsin QSO Party to be held March 9th. It was suggested that members visit the stations of other members who will be taking part in the QSO Party. Jerry, W9GLG has sent a proposal to the Wausau Kayak/Canoe Corporation asking if the club can hold a Special Event in conjunction with their hosting the Pan Am Games in Wausau. Tom, N9TTA will be the Event Director.
 6. Badger State Games - The Games that the club was to assist in had been canceled due to the lack of snow. Mike, KB9DED is trying to get T-shirts for all who had volunteered.
 7. Special Olympics - The Games will be held at the Nine Mile Recreation Area on February 8th and 9th. Anyone who volunteered should meet there at about 8:00 A.M. If you wish to help with setup, please be there about 7:00 A.M. The events will start at 9:00 A.M. The frequency used will be 146.550 simplex.
 8. 75 Metter Net - Rich, N9MO informed the members there would not be a net tonight. It is going well with some interest from hams in other parts of the state. He is also trying to practice CW with other members on 80 meters in the 3.700 area.

(Continued on page 11)

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THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

(Continued from page 10)

toocol set is used. If you want to transfer a file, the FTP protocol is used. If you want to look at web pages, HTTP is used as the communications standard. There are others, such as those used for networked file-sharing and time synchronization between computers.

Making TCP/IP Connections and Their Parameters.

No matter what the protocol set used, all TCP/IP connections start with a "SYN" packet. This equates to the AX.25 "Connect Request". However, it is a little more complete than the AX.25 version. In addition to simply asking to connect and the following acknowledgement, some behind-the-scenes negotiation takes place. The two computers involved negotiate how big the "data chunks" will be sent between the two computers, and what type of service (SMTP, FTP, etc.) is to be requested.

This "handshaking" establishes the MSS (Maximum Data Segment Size) and MTU (Maximum Transmission Unit). These are important connection parameters, because AX.25 limits the size of packets. AX.25 is, you recall, the underlying transport protocol that is now standard in the amateur packet radio world. TCP/IP, as we implement it, rides "on top of" AX.25, and is subject to some of it's limitations.

MSS is analogous to the AX.25 "PACLEN". The maximum Paclen that is permitted in AX.25 is 256 bytes. TCP/IP has it's own "address field" header that occupies 20 bytes. This is a constant and is present on every packet sent, just like your call-sign.

Subtract 20 from 256 and you end up with 236. In order to comply with the AX.25 protocol specification, we need to limit our MSS to 236. This means that each packet can contain a maximum of 236 bytes of information (data) that can be sent. With the IP headers, this makes 256.

MTU is analogous to "MAXFRAME". Rather than being specified in frames, it's specified as the number of data bytes that can be sent at one time before the computer has to ask for an acknowledgement. In the Internet world, it's customary to set this to 10 times the MSS. In our world, with radio-induced latency and AX.25 limita-

tions, it is best to set this to 2 or 3 times the MSS. Some folks even set this to the MSS, because of poor radio paths or because of some other operating limitation.

Once a connection is set up and acknowledged, there are timers that TCP/IP uses to manage the connection. If one of the connected computers disappears for some reason or another, the timers take hold and sever the connection. We won't delve too deeply into this, as it is not a node function. Rather, this is a parameter that is set by the host computers using TCP/IP as a transport mechanism.

When the connection is not needed, or is determined to be faulty for some reason, a "Reset" packet is sent. This tells the computer on the other end of the connection that "We're done with our business, you can close the connection". This is a "DM" Packet in the AX.25 world.

Here's an important note about all of these parameters. While AX.25 is used as the underlying packet transport mechanism, TCP/IP doesn't use all of it's features. Most of the time, AX.25 regards TCP/IP as "unconnected", letting the TCP/IP setup manage repeat requests as well as the opening and closing of a connection. Yes, this is the familiar "UI" mode, which is also used for APRS messaging. No packet counts are kept (no need) and other than limitations with Pac-len, no other AX.25 parameters are used.

The exception is when TCP/IP is used in the "Virtual Connection" mode. This is not the usual method of TCP/IP transport, largely because of timer conflicts between the TCP/IP system and the AX.25 system. Most all of the X-1J nodes in Wisconsin use the "UI" method of making and maintaining connections. To avoid conflicts, it's best to stick with that method.

Why is This Important?

This somewhat dry theory is important because you need to know why a node is set up in a particular way. If it isn't, then TCP/IP packets will not get through, or won't be as efficient as it could be.

And that is all for this part. We'll continue our exploration of what a sysop needs to know for TCP/IP configuration of TheNet X-1J next time. Until then, 73 from Andy.

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Wisconsin ARES/RACES Needs You!

(Continued from page 1)

member of an ARES unit. This has been true since January 2000. ARES, as you know, is part of the Field Service Organization of the ARRL, a private, not-for-profit organization. RACES is administered by a governmental organization, Wisconsin Emergency Management. While it is not possible to merge governmental and private organizations, we have virtually done so by merging their memberships – the hams who make up the working part of both ARES and RACES. This makes for better working relationships in emergencies, provides additional legal and medical protection for hams under certain circumstances and provides much better service to the public.

I hold a [Nov, Tech, Tech+, Gen, Adv, Ext] class license. Does that mean I am trained and ready to go in emergencies? Most emphatically not! There is next to no emergency training associated with the study leading to any class of ham license. Indeed, there is even a basic difference in the way hams must learn to communicate in emergencies. For example, we hams just love to ragchew. For many of us, that is one of the attractions of the hobby – to be able to have free wheeling conversations with our peers, close by or across the world. In emergency communications, we must learn to be very succinct, and to actually keep quiet when we have nothing to report. We must also learn to be conversant with non-ham communications conventions, such as the 10-codes still used today by a few police and fewer fire departments. We must learn what an Incident Commander is, and what a staging area is. In addition to non-ham language, we must also learn to use non-ham equipment, since we may be required to use public safety equipment in an emergency. In addition, there are a myriad of other areas that we need to train for: HazMat (hazardous materials) incidents, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, maritime and aviation incidents and so on. We need to know something about all sorts of natural and man-made disasters, and the language that first responders will use when they are reacting to the emergency. Sometimes, this knowledge will help us to protect ourselves!

Where do I get the training?

You start it after you join an ARES/RACES unit, and it never ends! Weekly nets polish your ability to provide succinct reports on the air. Training sessions, sometimes provided by an Emergency Manager, help you to understand the interface between hams and Emergency Management in a county or the state. Some units hold drills on packet communications, HF nets, weather operations, maritime inci-

dents, HazMat incidents and even vehicular traffic management! Yearly SETs (Simulated Emergency Test) routinely help ARES/RACES units train inside their county for emergencies. During the last few years, the SET was extended state-wide, with an emphasis on mutual aid between neighboring ARES/RACES units. Of course, Field Day is superb for learning how to set up emergency stations in the field, and this year the ARRL has made provisions for Field Day operations in municipal and county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Beyond these sources, you can tap many others on your own. The ARRL has a new series of three excellent training courses (EmCom I, II and III) that you can take via the Internet. Nearly 70 of Wisconsin's 1,350 ARES/RACES hams have graduated from these courses as of this writing, and many more are currently enrolled. The EmCom courses even provide mentors – real, live persons – to check your assignments and provide feedback to keep you on track. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has a whole host of related free courses that you can take on line or download and complete at your leisure. There are even courses taught by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) that may be available to you as a member of Wisconsin ARES/RACES. Of course, all these courses provide nice wallpaper when you finish them. But most important, you learn the who, what, why, when, where and how of emergency communications, all very important knowledge when you participate in real emergencies.

Wow! Sounds like it could be a full time job! How much time do I need? Correct, it could be a full time job! However, no one expects that from you. You put in as much time as you can afford, or as little, though some ECs require that you make a certain number of meetings or training events each year. This varies, though, and you must query your EC to get an exact answer. Remember that we are all unpaid volunteers who wish to provide public service as part of our wonderful hobby. Families and jobs always come first. But then, about those spare 3 hours a week that you have...! By the way, an added benefit of becoming better trained for ARES/RACES is that you become better able to protect yourself and your own families when disaster strikes, and better able to prepare for such contingencies.

How do I join? Contact your EC. A list is on the ARES/RACES website referenced above. Indeed, there is an email button next to your EC's name on the website. Just find your county and click the button by the EC's name to send a message.

Please send me _____ Admission Tickets @ \$4 = \$ _____
plus flea-market table reservations [shown below] total \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

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Business name, if any: _____
Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____
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Table reservations postmarked **by 3/24/03** **after 3/24/03**
Eight-foot tables (For AC Power add \$18) _____ @ \$14 _____ @ \$18
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Table reservation does not include admission ticket. Make your check payable to M.A.R.A.

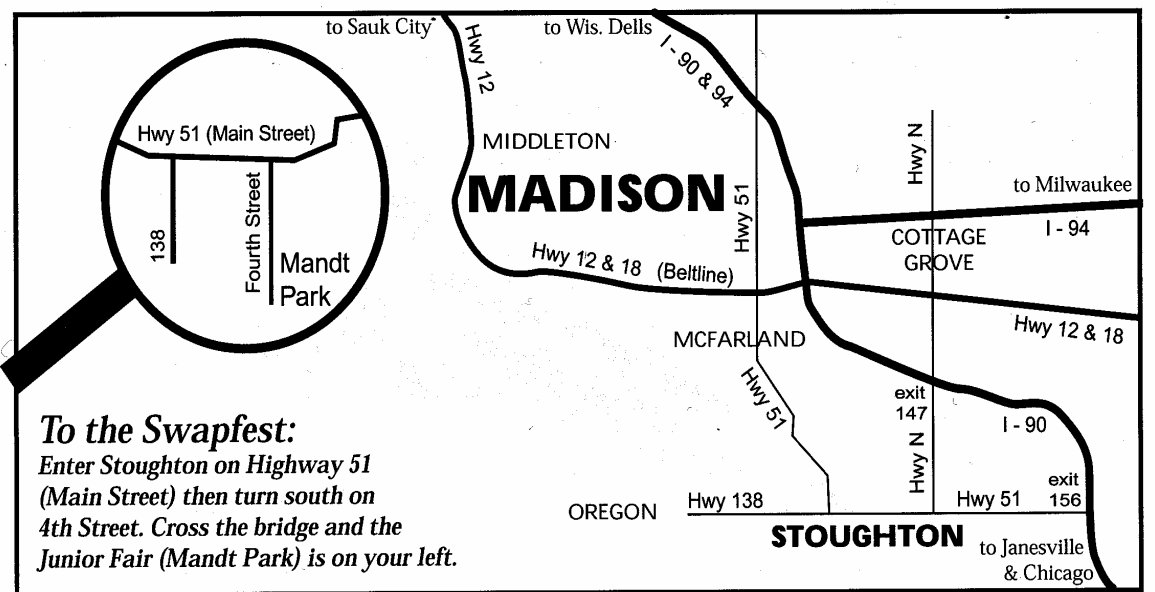
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doors open at 8:00 AM talk-in on W9HSY repeater 147.150 MHz



If you live in one of the few counties that have no EC at present, pick an EC from a close neighboring county. You do not have to live in a county to be a member of its ARES/RACES group. Note, however, that you can only be a member of a single county's ARES/RACES group in Wisconsin. Once you have joined a group, your EC will submit your name, call, address, etc., for inclusion in the RACES roster, a very quick process that completes your membership as a Wisconsin RACES operator. Your EC will inform you when that has been ac-

complished.

What's in it for me? Aside from those benefits mentioned above, you are guaranteed to acquire a sense of personal accomplishment as your training opens new vistas. You will have taken what used to be just a hobby, and

extended it to a skill level that can be used to help others. That is something we hams are noted for in the mind of the public, and we want to continue that mindset. The Wisconsin ARES/RACES motto says it all: We communicate when no one else can.

**Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsrs.org](http://www.bsrs.org)**



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Allen Schnepf, N0GMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor—453 Cottage Grove Avenue—Green Bay, WI 54304—e-mail: kb9aln@gbonline.com

WAPR News February, 2003

By Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Hello everyone, hope you're staying warm. It's been a less typical winter here in Wisconsin. At the time of this writing, we've been in a cold snap after above-normal temperatures. This has been hard to get used to.

More on 802.11b

In December, I mentioned the efforts of the ARRL High-Speed Multi-Media Working Group and their work on the 802.11b Wi-Fi standard with the goal of bringing it to ham radio.

Lately it seems that the pace of activity in this newer (for us) method of data transmission has increased. There has been more public comment, as well as more activity on the 2.4 GHz band. By "public" I not only mean the general hamming public, but also the general computing public. There are more than a few misconceptions about our presence there, and the word is now just getting out about our allocation in that band. Many non-ham computer users are apprehensive about our presence there.

I have done a little reading on this in forums frequented by the so-called "Computer Geek" crowd and am somewhat surprised at the lack of knowledge shown on this subject. These Part-15 users are not only ignorant of ham radio's role in emergency communications (they cite the familiar "Everything will be all right - we've got Cell phones" argument), but also concerned that we'll come up on that band with high-powered amplifiers and "swamp" existing operations. They don't realize that we currently have authorization to operate on a portion of that band, and that we are subject to Automatic Power Control rules which prevent us from running a Kilowatt-powered station. They also don't realize that Part-15 users are afforded no protection from users that are "FCC allocated", and must not interfere with them.

They also don't realize that we don't necessarily wish to "take over" the ISM/Part 15 portion of 2.4 GHz and would prefer to operate within our own allocation. Some of the Part 15 spread-spectrum "channels" are placed in the amateur allocations, and we'd prefer to not interact with existing Part-15 users. Not only are there legal issues involved in allowing our network to be used by non-licensed people,

but there are strategic reasons as well.

Ham radio has a long and proud tradition of emergency operating and packet radio is (at least should be) an integral part of this operation. We really don't want to "mix it up" with non-licensed users as we could be shooting ourselves in the foot when we need the bandwidth required for emergency operating. More on that in a little bit.

We'd simply like to move forward and do what we normally do - carry on hobby communications and drills in anticipation of the times we will be needed - times of emergency, when normal communications channels are overloaded or out completely.

While the ARRL has made progress in technical standards and the like, nothing has been firmed-up just yet. As a result, anyone who wishes - meaning non-licensed people - can have access to your 802.11b equipped packet setup. For those who are operating these Part-15 devices as Amateur Radio Operators, I make the following suggestions:

- Obtain and use a ampr.org 44-Net IP address, not a 192 private network address. You can obtain one by E-Mailing me (kb9aln@gbonline.com). All computers using the 44-Net are required to be operated by a licensed person - there is no exception to this rule. 192 private network addresses are not to be seen on the internet, and definitely not to be seen on the Amprnet. Amprnet addresses are free - no excuse not to have one if you're operating TCP/IP on packet.

- Restrict access to your computer. Assign users their own unique passwords containing random letters, numbers and punctuation. Don't use the current custom of using the call-sign as a user name with a first name as a password. Call-sign user names are OK, but the password has to be "unguessable". No family pet names - they are the easiest to crack.

- Use encryption to protect passwords. It's not necessary or desirable to encrypt most normal communications, of course. Part 97 allows us to use encryption to protect passwords and telecommand information, contrary to the belief of some hams. We are protecting confidential passwords, not attempting to obscure the meaning of our communications.

- Keep up on all security updates and patches for your operating system of choice. I strongly urge you to not use Microsoft Windows in a server environment, as it has many vulnerabilities and is inherently insecure. Even Microsoft can't keep its own machines up to date, as evidenced by the "Slapper" worm attack in January.

- Verify that your access limiting actions are working by looking at your log files. Don't assume you are safe, make sure you are.

- Don't take the easy way out and try to use the internet as a "Virtual Private Network" for ham radio. Try and use radio to complete our packet infrastructure. Again, I refer you to the "Slapper" worm attack. Some Bank Automatic Teller machines were doing this, and as a result, were out of commission for the duration of the Slapper worm attack.

- If you're trying to provide a service to the ham radio community, please take the time to educate yourself and keep your knowledge base up-to-date. The best defense against attackers is knowing what they are up to and taking the appropriate countermeasures. You need the time to gain the knowledge necessary to take these countermeasures.

While all of this may seem excessively paranoid (we generally trust our fellow ham radio operators), we are now in the real "networked" world. And the real world can be a scary place.

Why We Need High-Speed Packet

I have been "Beating the Drum" for high-speed packet for quite some time, citing the need to provide computer network services in times of emergency. While I'd hardly call myself a visionary, it was with great interest that I saw a message that made it's rounds through the packet system. Mike, DL1GBM put it out on the packet BBS system, quoting an article that originally appeared in Computerworld. Although it has a date of 2001, it supports what I and others have been saying for the last few years. I'll summarize it here.

The article explains how the System Administration Networking and Security Institute (SANS) has asked ham radio operators to consider setting up an emergency network designed to carry emergency traffic in times of internet outages, communications infrastructure emergencies, and the like. The article has comments from ARRL President Jim Haynie, who says this is right up our alley. And of course, he is right.

In effect, this is a call to action on our part, one that has not received much publicity and has not been answered as of yet. If we don't do this, we will be "routed around" - meaning that someone will listen and form their own emergency groups to fill this need. Which would leave us out in the cold and make us, in effect, not needed.

Here is where I do a little bit of editorial-

izing. We can't meet this challenge with our current infrastructure, period. We need more solid activity by packet and current non-packet amateurs in order to make this a reality. We need people who know and are comfortable working with the internet.

This may be a good time, especially now that we are moving toward the 802.11b wireless standard for packet radio, to "buddy-up" to that computer person you may know - the one that works with computers, has a technical interest, and maybe has a spark of radio interest in their soul. Introduce him or her to Amateur Radio and let them know of the potential of the hobby, and how they can do a lot of experimentation in our hobby that they may not be able to do elsewhere.

In order to understand all of the subtleties of this situation, I refer you to the complete article via this link:

<http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/xsp/story/0,10801,62036,00.html>

Please take this to heart and realize that we are being called to action, and we should listen and respond. Even though the article is dated a year-and-a-half ago, the situation has not changed and recent events have shown us just how vulnerable the internet is.

That's all for this month. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Net/Rom Node Information for the Sysop - Part 17

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

In part 16 of our series, we continued our discussion of the basic concepts of TCP/IP operation, discussing ARP and Routing. This time, we'll continue with more of the basics, working our way toward configuration examples. We'll start this episode with some rather dry, but necessary light theory so that you'll understand what we're doing.

Different Types of Connections

TCP/IP has been called a "Suite of Protocols". What does this mean?

It simply means that computers using TCP/IP have a series of set methods to communicate, and these are tailored to a specific job. If you want to send mail, the SMTP protocol.

(Continued on page 8)



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)
Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315
Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 W. 2nd St., Reedsburg, WI 53959-1500



YTARC JANUARY MEETING

The meeting of January 7, 2003 was called to order at 7:25 pm by Vice President Tom Harrison, N9PQJ. The meeting was held on the 3rd floor of the Sauk Co. Court House. November minutes were read with motion from Pete, WD9JIB and seconded by Wayne, N9UDX to accept. The Treasurer's report was read by Bill N9KXX. The club account balance is \$2281.82 with some checks still out. Motion by Chuck, KC9BWS and seconded to accept treasurer's report. Check for purchase of postage stamps provided to secretary.

Old Business:

* Communication trailer: Paneling has been installed, shelves have been built, the bearings have been repacked, and the trailer will be soon painted. Report provided by Bill, N9KXX.

* Club Christmas Party: Report provided by Pete, WD9JIB.

* Testing Session Report: 10 people participated in the classes. 7 tested, 5 passed, 3 chose not to test at this time.

* Columbia Co. ARES/RACES: Chuck, KC9BWS reported on a web site developed for Columbia Co. ARES/RACES. He is willing to add adjoining counties to the site. The web address is www.aresraces.net.

New Business:

* Dues: Yearly dues are now due.

* Congratulations to Margaret, KB9VGM on obtaining her General ticket, and congratulations to new HAM, Bill Stehling, KC9CVD on obtaining his Tech. ticket.

* Technician class workshop to be held at Space Place in May. Those interested may contact Don, W9IXG, email address: N9UW@sal.wisc.edu.

* Eagle Watch in Prairie Du Sac on Saturday and Sunday, January 18-19. YTARC will have a brat stand set up. Bill, N9KXX looking for volunteers to help operate the stand on Sunday.

* Scratch Pads: Scratch pads were made out of left over flyers from last years Ham Fest,

and distributed to club members present.

* 2003 Swap Fest: Flyers for this year's swap fest handed out to members present. A copy of the flyer for the 2003 Circus City Swap Fest to be sent as an attachment with this month's minutes.

* Madison Ham Fest to be held April 13, 2003, sponsored by MARA. Report on the Waukesha Hamfest provided by club members who attended that event.

* Tom, N9PQJ opened discussion to the floor for suggestions on things YTARC members might participate in.

*Pete, WD9JIB: the Mount Horeb Bike ride on June 14, 2003, sponsored by Horrible Hilly 100 Bike Tours.

* Tom, N9PQJ: Field Day. Check QST for date.

*ARRL VHF contest on January 18-19.

* Tom, N9PQJ talked about the monthly Zilch. If anyone knows of anybody who should be or would like to be added to the Zilch break-fast list, contact Tom at his email address: N9PQJ@arrl.net.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2003 @ 7:00 pm, at the Sauk Co. Court House

Motion to adjourn made by Bob, KB9VSQ and seconded by Len, N9XJG. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Loomis, KB9YOD, YTARC Secretary

Members and Friends attending:

Chuck Humboldt	KC9BWS
Wayne Burgess	N9UDX
Margaret Baker	KB9VGM
Henry DeBoer	KB9YFG
Tom Harrison	N9PQJ
Joseph Williams	KJ9W
Peter Sweeney	WD9JIB
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX
Anne Klinkner	
Bill Stehling	KC9CVD
Bob Loomis	KB9VSQ
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG

Dues: Club dues are now due. The board will be getting together soon to compose a letter to remind members about dues and meeting dates. A goal is to comprise a current roster of members.

Eagle Watch: Other obligations prevented club participation this year. Last year the club had a brat stand at this event. Proceeds were split between the club and Relay for Life.

2003 Swap Fest: Flyers have been printed and handed out. The date of this year's Circus City Swap Fest is Saturday, August 9, 2003 at

the Sauk County Fair Grounds.

Madison Ham Fest: Madison Ham Fest is April 13, 2003, and will be held in Stoughton. The club will be having a table at the fest. If you have anything you wish to sell, notify Bill, N9KXX. Put your name and call sign on the item. If you are wishing to sell an item, and are attending the fest, you will be obligated to assist in watching the table.

Memorials: A set of video tapes about HAM radio is still being considered for purchase and kept at a local library as a memorial for Bob King, W9QOQ. A memorial for Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ is also in the works. Memorials have been made to St. Claire Hospital Foundation and The American Diabetes Society in memory of Loretta Kleefisch, wife of club member Art Kleefisch, W9SS. Club members are encouraged to give Art a call or visit to see how he's doing.

New Members: The club repeater has helped membership. It has been suggested that board members help monitor the repeater and write down calls of those using and are fairly active on the repeater, and are currently not members of YTARC. The board will then contact these people and provide them with information about the club and info on who to contact if they wish to join the club or make a donation.

Christmas Party: Pete, WD9JIB received a thank you note and a gift certificate for \$20 from the Hiway House thanking the club for choosing their establishment for the club Christmas party. The gift certificate expires June 30, 2003, and will be offered as a door prize at the March club meeting.

New Business:

(Continued from page 7)

WVRA FEB 2003

9. Programs - Mike, KB9VBR is looking for any new ideas for programs. Some of the suggestions are SWL, Satellite, Home Power and Soldering.

10. Ham of The Year - The Board decided to vote after the information on the candidates is given at the meeting in March. The Award will be presented in April.

11. Trailer - Matt, N9NMH said the trailer is in but he had not heard if the grant was accepted yet. The rumor he has heard is favorable.

12. Pick-n-Save - Myron, KB9STB has submitted the paperwork to put the WVRA on the list of organizations that can be chosen for a part of all your purchases to be donated to.

New Business:

1. The Board Meeting will be on Monday, February 17th for this month.

2. April will be Election of Officers, and payment of dues. You must be a paid member to vote.

3. Jack, N9LIA informed the members of the upcoming MS Walk. It will be held May 4th. Any person who volunteered last year will receive a form in the mail. If you wish to volunteer

Packet Demonstration Pete, WD9JIB and Steve, N9UDO, are planning a Packet demonstration at next month's club meeting. This will be a hands on session to allow those not familiar with packet to see how it works and how it can be used. The demonstration will be held toward the end of the meeting and will overlap the ARES/RACES meeting that follows.

May Club Meeting: A Fox Hunt is being planned for the Wednesday, May 7 meeting. Jim Paul, N9LKY will be the "Fox Master", as he was the successful hunter at the last fox hunt.

Len, N9XJG motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bob, KB9VSQ. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT CLUB MEETING: MARCH 6, 2003 AT THE SAUK CO. EOC MEETING ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE SAUK CO. COURT HOUSE, 510 BROADWAY, BARABOO -USE THE WEST (BROADWAY STREET) ENTRANCE.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Loomis, KB9YOD YTARC Secretary

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Home Page <<http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/>>

Members and Friends attending:

Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Peter Sweeney	WD9JIB	Reedsburg
Bill Stehling	KC9CVD	Sauk City
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Bob Loomis	KB9VSQ	Reedsburg
Maury Gurgel	KA9TBU	Reedsburg
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Anne & Patrick Klinkner		Sauk City
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Lynn Loomis	KB9YOD	Reedsburg

he will be accepting forms, and will have extra forms, at the March meeting.

4. The Capital to Northwood Bike Tour will be coming through this area again this summer. We have been asked to help. The club has offered support and communications for them in the past. It will be June 22nd - 27th. If you can help, please contact Mike, KB9VBR at kb9vbr@yahoo.com.

5. A person wishing to take the Tech exam has approached Matt, N9NMH. If you know anyone interested in taking the exam or an upgrade please inform Matt at n9nmh@arrl.net. If you can help to organize a testing session or be a VE also contact him.


Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M KB9STB, Second - N9MO

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 4, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center Cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the main parking lot at the main entrance on the East side of the building. Call in on 2-meter club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.640 (pl 114.8).

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Graebel - W9GLG (w9glg@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

Check us out on the web at [Http://www.bssts.org](http://www.bssts.org)

SWAPFESTS

 <p>2002 WINNER Michael J. Haessler, KB9TG Waupaca, WI.</p> <p>Both sponsored by: THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC. P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201</p>	<p>32nd ANNUAL MIDWINTER SWAPFEST WAUKESHA EXPOSITION CENTER WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN SATURDAY JANUARY 2004</p>	<p>HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING! MADISON SWAPFEST Mandt Community Center APRIL 13, 2003 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890 swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890</p>	<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST 03 JULY 12, 2003 (Held every July) American Legion Park Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail ryatex@aol.com</p>		
<p>SEWFARS SWAPFEST HAM RADIOS • COMPUTERS • ELECTRONICS AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS</p> <p>Setup starts at 6:00 A.M. For more information, call (414) 835-7035</p>	<p>The Chicago FM Club presents RADIO EXPO 2002 September 27-28, 2003 Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 http://www.chicagofmclub.org P.O. Box 56784, Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0724</p>	<p>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 2003 March 16, 2003 YOUR SPRING FAVORITE ! Tricountyarc@globaldialog.com TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p>			
 <p>NS9RC <i>Fest</i> formerly known as LAMARfest Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, Illinois Radio, Electronic, Computer Swapfest www.ns9rc.org</p> <p>March 23, 2003 Grayslake, IL</p>	<p>Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club HAMFEST 2003 Saturday, April 19</p> <p>For Information Contact: Steve Bluem at (715)839-6509 ka9omy@arrl.net ECARC P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire. WI 54702-1867</p>	<p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2003 November 2003</p> <p>Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings For more information, see: http://www.execpc.com/mrc e-mail mrc@mrc91.org or call 1.608.367.3953</p>			
<p>Ozaukee Radio Club 23rd ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST May 5, 2003 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center Intersection of Highway 60 and County I Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno, 5119 W, Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222 Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg WI 53012</p>	<p>Circus City Swapfest Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Saturday, August 9, 2003 • 7 am—Noon Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</td><td>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</td></tr></table> <p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm,</p>	Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables	<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AUCTION Amateur Radio, Computers & Electronics Wed. March 12, 2003, 6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 434 Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p>	
Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables				

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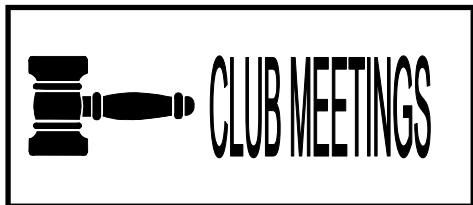
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BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

WEB EDITION — EXTRA PAGES

FEBRUARY 2003 ■ BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS WEB EXTRA PAGE 13

With this issue of Badger State Smoke Signals, we will start including extra pages with the electronic edition. This will include material that we were not able to include in the printed edition due to space limitations, timeliness, and material that may show up in later printed editions.



Appleton, FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. PLa-tour428@aol.com Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>.

Baraboo, BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

Baraboo, YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

Dubuque, IA, GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: N0hdc@aol.com.

Eau Claire, EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email kg9ra@ecarc.org. Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

Fond du Lac, FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org

Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

Fort Atkinson, TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

Grafton, Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin www.qsl.net/orc/.

Green Bay, GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

Green Lake, GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Hudson, St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

Juneau, ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

Madison, SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Madison, BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union

board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

Madison, Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison, FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc, MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on north-west side of city.) Additional information: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredw6bsf@lakefield.net.

Marinette WI, Menominee MI, Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary kg9ad@arrl.net

Medford, TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC) Meetings: Usually first Thursday, 7 p.m. sharp. Usual location: Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross Office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford. Talkin: 147.15 (+600) MHz. Amateurs and guests are welcome. ARES Net: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., 147.15 (+600) repeater. Information: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonee Falls, FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Menomonie MI, Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Wal-mart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through

November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee, GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

Milwaukee, MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . Email: w9rh@arrl.net.

Monomonic, RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonic, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Northeast Area, NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdx/>. Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net.

Oak Creek, SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Auctions in March and October. Swapfest July 6, 2002.

Onalaska, RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc/> . Email: wr9arc@qsl.net.

Oshkosh, RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.) Meetings: Third Saturday monthly, locations vary. R.A.W. is a family oriented club. Most of its meetings revolve around family doings and outings. We are always looking for good people to join us. If you are a ham or interested in ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662, or Duane Ritschke, W9UDX, (920) 233-1684.

QCWA Chapter 162, QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

(QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

QCWA Chapter 55, QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:rryokes@execpc.com>.

Racine, LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. New meeting location to be announced.

Racine, RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., New meeting location to be announced.

Rhineland, NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site. <http://www.freeyellow.com/members7/nwarc>.

Sheboygan, SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake, NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point, CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: jglas776@uwsp.edu. Webpage: www.qsl.net/wb9qfw.

Superior, ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

W.A.R.WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS Quarterly meetings of the

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

Watertown, WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

Waupaca, WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau, WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600). <http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>.

West Allis, West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. www.warac.org.

West Bend, WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

Wisconsin Rapids, WISCONSIN RAPIDS

SECTION MANAGER REPORTS

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

Monthly Wisconsin Section News

Date: 13 Jan 2003

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9RCW. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WSBN 3985 1715-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 WA9ZTY. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662

2200 W9UW. CTN 3994 Mondays @ 2000 KC9IS (All times are Central).

With regret, I inform you of the passing of N9QGJ, W9MQ, W9JBF. All three were members of the RMRA. Jones Jordan, N9CRO, passed away on Christmas Eve. He was a member of ECARC.

The ECARC presented Distinguished Service Award plaques to N9NMA, W9NW, KG0KM, KB9AZZ, KA9OMY and wife Linda for their activities in the club in 2002.

Congratulations to Dave Parker, WB9WHG. He was named Ham of the Year by RRRRC!

December 9RN report indicates Wisconsin represented in all scheduled nets! The HVARC had a SET Communications drill that was done with the Southwest Health Center in Platteville. A special thank you to Hap Daus KC9BGA for making the drill arrangements with SWHC for HVARC. They received a lot of good publicity for this event.

The WARAC Midwinter Swapfest was a success! It was nice to see many of you for an eyeball QSO. If you would like me to represent the ARRL at your club hamfest, please let me know, ASAP. A reminder to affiliated clubs to notify ARRL well in advance of your event so you get it listed and to receive free door prizes, also!

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, has donated one of his computers to St. Joseph's College Colombo, Sri Lanka. He received a letter of appreciation from 4S7VK. The computer is a great asset to the school Radio Communications Club and the students also use it for Satellite Communication work. Thanks, Stan! Many of you know that I travel the State to assist amateurs in need of assistance with their station or antennas. I work for a good cup of coffee and conversation!

But, don't forget that local assistance may be just around the corner at your club. Also, consider contacting the Technical Specialists listed at the Section site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI>. Their areas of expertise are posted and some may even be able to make house calls to help you. Please feel free to contact them!! 73, Don, W9IXG

STM Report -- Junk traffic. If you've ever attempted delivery of a message only to discover the recipient had passed away a year ago, you know how embarrassing it can be. What's a traffic OP to do? (1) apologize and then advise the originating station to help avoid future problems, (2) fill the NTS with meaningful traffic -- accurately addressed and properly formatted. If we put enough "good" messages into the system, the need for the generic will fade like 80 meters under the aurora. How did we do in 2002? Section nets had a total of 39,473 check-ins and handled 21,753 pieces of traffic in 2,561 net sessions last-

ing 73,219 minutes. Good work! Monthly Net Activity Summary: NET QNI QTC QTR SSNS NM ---- BWN 1347 1593 2725 31 W9RCW - BEN 507 83 921 31 KE9VU - WSBN 676 77 975 31 K9FHI - WNN 241 19 376 29 KB9ROB - WSSN 221 18 332 29 WA9ZTY - WIN/E 236 90 315 30 WB9ICH - WIN/L 247 50 373 31 W9UW - WRACES 124 1 211 5 N6NKO Totals 3599 1931 6228 217 BPL: W9CBE, K9JPS, W9RCW, K9GU*, N9VE*-K9LGU/STM

ARRL Wisconsin Section
Section Manager: Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org

Monthly Wisconsin Section News

Date: February 12, 2003

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: WB9RQR, STM: K9LGU, ACC: Open, SGL: AD9X, OOC: N9VE, PIC: W9UQ. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9CBE, N9VE.

Fred Stolte, W9UFW, 75, passed away. Fred was a founding member of the Ozaukee Radio Club and a member of the Quarter Century Club and lived in New Hampshire. Arthur Fowler, 76, KA9EFT, and Thomas Gettelman, W9IZO, 62 are Silent Keys.

Sherm Swanson, KB9Q, brings up an excellent point that by using the hobby to teach basic electronic principles, computer applications, geography, weather, physics etc., a seed will be planted that later in life may develop and bloom into a sincere, meaningful interest -- and a license. Keep this thought with you when introducing someone into amateur radio!

Patrick, W9UQ, has some good thoughts worth passing along: "Seek out a new ham and become an Elmer. Offer to present a program on your favorite activity. Educate us, we are sponges waiting for more knowledge. Share what you know. Demonstrate a skill. Volunteer your time and skill. Help educate your local community about the contributions of Amateur Radio".

Ed, KG8CX, and the M&M ARC were, again, successful in their membership program. This time, in helping new amateur, KC9CTK, age 14. Full story is on the QRZ site for KC9CTK. The

Tri-County ARC are donating copies of Now You're Talking and the Technician Q & A Manual to five area libraries. Excellent idea!! On 21 January,

We Energies presented SEC Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, with a check to fund ham hardware items in counties where the company has 5,000 or more customers.

The 17 counties are Calumet, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Shawano, Sheboygan, Vilas, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Winnebago. Milwaukee will receive \$9,000, Waukesha \$6,000, Racine \$3,000 and the remainder will receive \$1,500 each. ECs in these counties will be mailed information and instructions from Stan and We Energies shortly.

Both We Energies and your SEC are hopeful that this will spur similar actions from energy companies that serve other parts of Wisconsin. The We grant will be funneled to EC Resources Ltd, a 501(c)3 group established 10 years ago by East Central Wisconsin District Emergency Coordinator Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, to fund Outagamie County ARES. Thank you, Bill Niemuth, for making it possible to acquire these funds!!

Congratulations to Paul Bittner, W0AIH, for making it to the cover of CQ magazine!

January 9RN report shows Wisconsin represented at all 62 net sessions! Our thanks to everyone who handles traffic on our nets!

I am looking for someone to fill the Affiliated Club Coordinator position. The appointment description is given at this site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/acc.html>. If interested, please contact me at 608-274-1886 or w9ixg@arrl.org.

Thanks!! 73, Don, W9IXG

And, here is our monthly report from Denny, K9LGU, STM: FAQ #3 -- Where can I find out more about good traffic handling? Ask around. Listen carefully to the regulars on voice and CW nets. Ask lots of questions. Re-read the famous pink card, Operating Aid FSD-218, or check out some of the fine sources on the Internet such as those linked from <http://www.arrl.org>.

If your club or ARES unit would like a no-cost program on traffic handling, let your Section Traffic Manager know. Have overhead; will travel. I'd be pleased to appear at your meeting and discuss the NTS, traffic handling, and questions on Wisconsin nets. I've had lots of fun talking traffic at places such as Port Washington, Baraboo, Stevens Point, Sheboygan, Grafton, Madison, Juneau and other points about the state. Give me a call, email me, or -- better yet -- send me a radiogram, and I'll check my calendar.

73 - K9LGU/STM

ARRL Wisconsin Section
Section Manager:
Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org

Getting Ready For Severe Weather

By Skip Voros-WD9HAS
Executive Director,
Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association

The 2003 severe weather season is rapidly approaching, and once again the National Weather Service (NWS) will request assistance from the Badger state's ham radio and repeater operators statewide for the SKYWARN program. Skywarn is the name of a nationwide NWS program developed in the late 1960's to promote the identification, evaluation, and reporting of dangerous weather. Today, Skywarn is associated with severe weather reporting by both ham and non ham volunteer communication groups alike.

Each year during early spring, meteorologists from the state's NWS offices, along with other educational groups, conduct storm spotter training programs for the public and emergency response personnel on the what, where, when, and why regarding severe weather observations and how to make reports. These spotter programs are always eagerly attended the hams interested in severe weather or in providing public service activities for their club or community.

If you are a new licensee, a recent ARES/RACES appointee, or just want to participate in your club's weather nets, now is the time to attend the training programs as there can never be too many ham storm spotters. Even if you're a veteran ham you should attend a 'spring refresher' training program. Spotter training dates are listed on all NWS websites.

Amateur radio storm spotter reports are a critical and essential part of the NWS severe weather programs. This is because no amount of remote sensing gear (Doppler radar, satellite, smart weather networks) can take the place of a trained spotter offering real-time 'ground-truth' observations. Let me highlight again the most important aspect of what we provide: Real-time, ground-truth observations.

Our amateur community is ideal for gathering and reporting severe weather events because we already have in place an extensive network of voice and digital repeater systems. More importantly, a lengthy and proud history of volunteerism, accompanied by established and disciplined radio operating procedures when all other communication systems are down. (Try making a cell phone call in your area after a weather disaster.)

The NWS has demonstrated its confidence in the emergency communications capability and organizational skills of amateur radio operators by signing a "Memorandum Of Understanding" a few years back, pledging mutual support and cooperation between the NWS and the ARRL. Today, amateur radio stations are

present at all NWS offices nationwide.

April 7th to April 11th is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness week in Wisconsin. During that week on April 10th a simulated statewide Tornado Watch and Warning will be issued at 1:15PM and 1:45PM respectively. This test is done to insure that all emergency responders are capable of receiving the weather warnings, then activating their personnel and response systems. Skywarn/weather net repeaters should also test their operations during this statewide drill since it provides us the same opportunities to evaluate our systems and personnel, plus educate newcomers to our functions during actual hazardous weather. The drill we be cancelled should there be threat of actual severe weather.

Severe weather is serious business; there is no room for egos or politics. This is a team effort and we must all learn to work together. The NWS is not interested in petty politics or club squabbles. Severe storm do not observe geo-political borders and neither should we. Lives could be at stake and seconds can make the difference.

Severe weather reporting can also be dangerous. Unless you have actually experienced a first-hand weather scare or had storm spotter training, you make not recognize the dangers facing you. If you need to think about your safety then it is already an un-safe situation you are facing.

Your personal safety is the absolute highest priority when doing when doing severe weather reporting. Think safety first, then accuracy, and speed of reporting. NEVER make any report unless it is safe to do so!

What do I report? The meteorological reporting criteria (tornadoes, funnels, large hail, damaging winds, etc.), are very similar through out the state, but there are minor differences from region to region. The exact reporting criteria are determined by each NWS office (Milwaukee/Sullivan, La Crosse, Green Bay, Minneapolis, Duluth) and the on-duty meteorologist during the active weather. The reporting procedures (how you format your report) are typically determined by the ham group working a NWS office. As always, first listen to the local net control station and determine what they are requesting.

And speaking of reports, a few points to remember that have been learned the hard way: Do not report 'hearsay' traffic from other frequencies, TV, scanners, or the internet. They are considered as second-hand sources. If you did not see the actual weather event, don't report it. Severe weather nets need 'First-Hand' observations only. If however, you observed a reportable event, but could not make a timely report when it happened, call the net with a delayed report and indicate so.

When passing wind speed or hail size reports, always indicate to the net if your report is an actual measurement or only an estimate. The NWS considers measured

reports as more credible.

When describing your location, keep in mind that not everyone monitoring is familiar with your area. At a minimum location should be referenced against a county, its quadrant, nearest city, landmark, or major highway crossings. GPS (Lat & Long) data is not normally used during severe weather events.

Before pushing the mic button it's a good idea to mentally compose and rehearse your report before passing it. This process provides correct on-air formatting and brevity. One bad sounding report can easily ruin the effort of 10 good sounding reports.

On-air remarks like: "The sky is very dark here, Its really coming down, We just lost power, The lightning is getting bad," are certainly not viable reports and should be discouraged by the Net Controller. However, these type of remarks indicate a certain amount of Stress, Excitement, and Tension (SET) is developing. This 'SET' effect can alter judgment and reporting accuracy. During these times the Net control station should impart some words to calm the net. SET can also create someone on-air ill will and harsh words. Remember we never criticize a station on the air. We politely correct them for obvious mistakes, this encourages new comers to follow the correct procedures and not push people away.

Although we are amateurs in name, we must strive to be professional in our presentations. Credibility is everything!! Bear in mind who is listening to your frequency. Severe weather (Skywarn) nets often attract huge audiences. This includes the media, fire & police, scanner buffs, radio stores, and emergency managers. Listener ship increases because many people have learned (through our efforts) that they can often obtain first-hand weather information on the ham bands.

National Weather Service Doppler radars operate in the S-band of the microwave spectrum. Their parabolic antenna is 28 feet in diameter and focuses a 750,000 watt signal into a pencil thin beam of only .88 degrees. Yet for all this power and technology, they cannot see what's happening on or at ground level!! However, with our puny v50 watts into a 5/8's vertical whip, or J-pole antenna, we hams who are always near ground level are in a perfect position to supply the NWS forecasters with the needed 'ground-truth' information.

In closing, look at the amateur radio severe weather process in another way: Each severe weather episode we respond to allows us the opportunity to test our operational readiness, emergency communication skills, and to justify our very existence on the sometimes shrinking ham bands. Our participation assists in providing community protection, all the way down to our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.